

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 02186

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: WCL VISIT TO MADRID

REF: EC BRUSSELS 02706

1. APPRECIATE REFTTEL REGARDING MARCH 21-26 VISIT OF WCL
GENERAL SECRETARY JAN KULAKOWSKI AND WCL PRESS OFFICER JESUS
INSAUSTI. AT THIS WRITING WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING REGARDING
VISIT. INCIDENTALLY, FOR THE RECORD, ONLY THE BASQUE STV AND
THE SATALAN SOC ARE AFFILIATED TO WCL, NOT RPT NOT SOCIALIST
UGT. SPANISH TRADE UNION LEADERS CONTACTED COMMENTED AS
FOLLOWS TO LABATT.

2. STV INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY ALEX AGIRREZABEL TOLD US
MARCH 22 THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THE WCL VISITORS WOULD NOT
BE COMING TO THE BASQUE COUNTRY. HE DID NOT DISCOUNT
POSSIBILITY THAT STV LEADERS MIGHT MEET WITH KULAKOWSKI IN
MADRID. IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH UGT (SEE BELOW) WHICH
HE KNEW ABOUT. AGIRREZABEL SPECULATED THAT KULAKOWSKI MIGHT
WELL SEEK TO MEET WITH CHRISTIAN SOICLAIST USO AND
COMMUNISTS DOMINATED WORKERS: COMMISSIONS (SWC) IN AN
ATTEMPT TO GET A "BALANCED" PICTURE OF THE SPANISH TRADE
UNION SCENE. HE ALSO DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY
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THAT THE WCL MIGHT TRY TO CONTACT THE RECELTY LAUNCHED
(LATE FEBRUARY) CHRISTIAN ORIENTED CONFEDERACION DE
TRABAJADORES CRISTIANOS (CTC) ALTHOUGH THE STV LEADER DID
NOT MENTION IT, WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE
STV IS INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE WCL. AND MAY WELL
DISAFFILIATE SHORTLY. THROUGH A COMPLICATED SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES
THE STV BELONGS TO BOTH THE ICFTU AND THE WCL. WE

ALSO KNOW THAT THE STV WAS UPSET BY THE ROLE INSAUSTI (A BASQUE) ALLEGEDLY PLAYED IN THE RECENT MISLEADING ARTICLES HERE SUGGESTING "AMERICAN MEDDLING" IN SPANISH TRADE UNION AFFAIRS (MADRID 1530) THEY DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE BRUSSELS BASED INSAUDSTI AS IN ANY WAY REPRESENTING THE STV. CLAIMING THAT HE HAS BEEN "A SOURCE OF TROUBLE " TO THEM FOR SOME TIME.

3. UGT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY MANUEL SIMON TOLD US MARCH 23 THAT THE UGT HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE THE WCL VISITORS MARCH 25 IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT KULAKOWSKI WANTED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT REGARDING THE SCL'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN SPREADING THE FALSE STORY OF A SUPPOSED MEETING IN GENEVA BETWEEN SUNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA, ICFTU PRESIDENT OTTO KERSTEN, AND THE AFL CIO'S IRVING BROWN. IN THAT CONNECTION MIKE BOGGS TOLD THE EMBASSY DURING HIS RECENT VISIT (MADRID 19RUL THAT HE HAD BEEN ATTENDING A MEETING IN GENEVA WITH KERSTEN WHEN THE LATTER HEARD OF THE STORY. ACCORDING TO BOGGS KERSTEN HAD BEEN FURIOUS AND HAD IN EFFECT STATED THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THAT WAS THE END OF ANY FURTHER TALK OF RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN ICFTU AND WCL. SIMON ALSO SPECULATED THAT KULAKOWSKI MIGHT WELL TRY TO CONTACT "CHRISTIAN LABOR ELEMENTS" SUCH AS CTC OR THE CATHOLIC HERMANDADES DE TRABJAO. FINALLY THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT KULAKOWSKI WILL PROBABLY MEET WITH SOC SEC GEN XAVIER CASASSAS OF BARCELONA. EATON

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